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Irrigation

Auction of the right of cutting grass and enjoying the usufruct of trees standing on flood banks in Kistna and other districts.

* 1747 *Q.*—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the right to cut grass and enjoy the usufruct of trees standing on flood banks in the districts of Kistna, East Godavari, West Godavari and Guntur is ordinarily put to auction by Public Works Department authorities and leased out to the highest bidders; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Government have refused to lease out the said rights to the concerned village panchayats in those four districts and if so, why?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes; but the refusal is not in regard to the flood banks in these four districts only but generally. The reason is that it is essential to safeguard flood banks against all possibility of damage and that the best way to do this is to fix as far as practicable individual responsibility and liability for damage. In the case of a village panchayat individual responsibility is difficult to fix and it would be impracticable to recover compensation did any damage occur through the action of a panchayat lessee.

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU:—"May I know whether the Government will be pleased to lease these rights to village panchayats if the panchayats concerned are prepared to deposit the necessary security against any possibility of damage . . . ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"That is a hypothetical question."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU:—"May I know whether Government contemplate to extend it to all the canal and drain banks also?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"At present the rule is only regarding flood banks."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether allowing the village panchayats to take these leases, etc., in auction would be more helpful to the villagers than by allowing it to individuals who might act in a selfish manner?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"I really could not say. It all depends on circumstances"

Storage of water in the Veeranam tank.

* 1748 *Q.*—Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that two stop banks were formed some time back and strengthened recently curtailing the waterspread of Veeranam tank and thereby reducing its storage considerably;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the shutters over the Lalpet weir are higher by one foot than the present F.T.L. of Veeranam tank;

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(c) if the reply to (a) and (b) is in the affirmative, whether the Government will issue orders to raise the F.T L. of Veeranam tank to the top level of shutters so as to make good the deficiency in storage for meeting the requirements of the large ayacut under the tank; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Veeranam is in all years drained completely to facilitate the fishery after the closure of irrigation season (31st March) prejudicial to the interests of the ryots under Veeranam?

A.—A report has been called for.

Land Revenue

Deduction for baling water in the Godavari and Kistna deltas.

11-15 a.m. * 1749 *Q.*—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to question No. 1379, on 1st February 1929, regarding deduction for baling water in the Godavari and Kistna deltas—

(a) whether the calculations of the Settlement Officer, Mr. Master, made in the year 1861 would be placed on the table of the House; and

(b) at what rate the said officer settled the cost of baling water with reference to the labour involved?

A.— (a) & (b) Mr. Master's report in which he made the calculations has not been preserved.

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the fact that the allowance given is out of all proportion to the labour involved?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"It is not so much out of proportion as the charge made for water is to its commercial purposes."

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu:—"May I take it, Sir, that the charge for the taking of water is based on a commercial basis?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"No, Sir."

Alleged overlooking of the claims of graduates for promotion in the Cuddapah Collectorate.

* 1750 *Q.*—Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Cuddapah district a junior Matriculate by name Mr. Krishnamachari was appointed Sub-Magistrate recently by a retiring Collector Mr. P. T. Srinivasachari in preference to many senior graduates by his name being included in the list as a special case;

(b) whether he is being continued as a Sub-Magistrate in spite of the reversion of his seniors; and

(c) whether the Government propose to remedy the grievances of the graduates whose claims were overlooked at least now?

A.— (a) (b) & (c) Collectors appoint deputy tahsildars and sub-magistrates from a list of persons previously approved by the Board of Revenue. The Government do not interfere in the selection of individuals for these appointments and do not propose to interfere in this case.